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Prote

By Jack Booth, of The Bulletin

"I have KGB friends," Miles Copeland says Soviet intelligence, "who would slit my thro personally would feel terrible about it."

Copeland, a former employe of the Central Intelligence Agency who has just written a pro-CIA book called "Without Cloak or Dagger" (Simon and Schuster), is not being facetious when he says that.

He sees nothing odd about the fact that CIA and KGB agents get along better at diplomatic cocktail parties with each other than they do with the diplomats from their own countries.

Nor is Copeland dismayed that the CIA organized a secret army in Laos, or that it teamed up with the International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. to meddle in elections in Chile.

But perhaps the best insight into Copeland's perspective was provided by an anecdote he related during a recent lunch at the Barclay Hotel.

While he was stationed in Syria in 1949, he said, he indirectly helped the commander of the Syrian army, Brigadier Husni Zayim, take over the government in a bloodless coup.

"Zayim arranged to take it over," Copeland said, "by means of coining the head of the security service of the government he wanted to remove into attacking my house.

"We said, 'OK, if you guarantee these blokes won't be armed, let 'em attack my house and we'll catch them and then you'll have the incident you need in order to justify your takeover.'"

"He said fine," Copeland went on, "but then he armed these guys to the teeth. We had a gun battle that lasted 22 minutes. Bullets were ricocheting around and the noise was deafening."

"The noise was deafening in Washington too," Copeland chuckled. "All this was in the papers. There were pictures of me. 'Alabama boy fights off assassins' and that kind of stuff."

Press Account

The difference between what was reported and what actually happened was almost comical, however, as evidenced by the exaggerated Press Account:

"Copeland, a crack shot, fired back with a pistol, and the four

on robbery, fled in their jeep."

Such incidents are at the heart of another book on the CIA called "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence" (Alfred A. Knopf).

Written by Victor Marchetti, a former CIA intelligence analyst, and John D. Marks, a former State Department employe, the controversial publication is the first book every published in the United States to contain blank spaces.

The spaces, totaling 168 passages and marked by the designation "(DELETED)," are the result of a censorship order obtained by the CIA that the publisher is still fighting.

The CIA obtained the order in federal court by arguing that Marchetti, who worked for the CIA from 1955 to 1969, signed a mandatory contract agreeing not to reveal information learned during his employment about "intelligence sources or methods" without first getting the CIA's permission.

Deleted Passages

Originally, the CIA tried to have 330 passages deleted, which amounted to 15 to 20 percent of the book.

Later the CIA reduced that number to 168 passages, and the ones they relented on appear in boldface type in the book.

Then, at a court hearing in March at Alexandria, Va., a federal judge ruled that only 27 passages contained classified information that should not be published.

The 141 passages that the judge cleared, however, cannot be published yet because the CIA is appealing the decision.

Marchetti played a key role in the Cuban missile crisis by examining reconnaissance photos of Cuba-bound Soviet ships and determining that the crates on deck contained missiles, not tractors.

When the CIA began trying to censor the book in 1972 while the manuscript was still uncompleted, Marchetti became so discouraged that he considered dropping the project until Marks stepped in to help.

There is that as the Pentagon progressively took over most of the intelligence-gathering operation, the CIA's main concern

ency and a handful of powerful men whose purpose is interference in the domestic affairs of other nations."

Some of the passages the CIA tried to delete are more of an embarrassment to the CIA or the government than they are damaging revelations.

Impassioned Speech

In one section, for example, then-Vice President Spiro Agnew gives an impassioned speech in defense of the independence of South Africans, only to have the President lean over and say, "You mean Rhodesia, don't you, Ted?"

Another passage tells how the late President Johnson greedily exceeded his State Department allowance at a meeting of the Organization of American States in Uruguay by freely dispensing gifts and souvenirs.

Unable to pay the bill because of its tight budget, the embarrassed State Department had the CIA foot the bill out of its Director's Contingency Fund.

Some of the sections that the CIA initially tried to censor, however, deal with serious incidents in which the American government had to conceal its involvement.

Unsuccessful Attempt

The CIA, the book claims, was involved in an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow Indonesian President Sukarno in 1953.

"Contrary to denials by President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles," the book states, "the CIA gave direct assistance to rebel groups located on the island of Sumatra.

"Agency B-26s even carried out bombing missions in support of the insurgents."

In the Congo in 1961, the book claims, Cuban pilots under contract with the CIA flew CIA B-26s and F-4s in bombing missions against rebel areas.

And in Laos, the book adds, the CIA had a similar involvement.

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